

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the specification as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method for determining the activity of a protease, said method comprising

- a) incubating a mixture of said protease and a substrate capable of being bound to an anchor, said substrate having a fluorescent radical attached thereto;
- b) binding the substrate to ~~an~~ the anchor;
- c) ~~measure~~ measuring the fluorescence polarization of the mixture.

Claim 2 (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the substrate is selected from the compounds of Formula I



wherein X is an amino acid sequence sufficient for substrate recognition by a protease; wherein V and W are independently selected from aminoalkylcarboxylic acids; wherein m and n are numbers independently selected from 0 and 1; and wherein one of Y and Z is a fluorescent radical and the other is a binding radical.

Claim 3 (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein X is a peptide containing six to sixteen amino acids, inclusive; and wherein V and W are independently selected from glycine, 4-aminobutyric acid, 5-aminopentanoic acid, 6-aminocaproic acid and 7-aminoheptanoic acid.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the anchor is selected from a biotin selective protein, a solid support, and an antibody; wherein the binding radical is selected from biotin, digoxigenin and radicals capable of binding to a solid support; and wherein the fluorescent radical is selected from the derivatives of fluorescein, rhodamine, coumarin, eosin, pyrene, quinoline, ~~DANSYL~~, 5-dimethylamino-naphthalene-1-sulfonyl, dinitrophenyl, benzimidazole, ~~DABCYL~~, 4-(4-dimethylaminophenylazo)benzoic acid, ~~EDANS~~ 5-[(2-aminoethyl)amino]naphthalene-1-sulfonic acid, cascade blue, Texas red, acidine orange and ~~BODIPY~~ 3,5-bis-(2-thienyl-4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza)-s-indacene.

Claim 5 (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the fluorescent radical is a fluorescein derivative.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5 wherein the biotin selective protein is avidin or streptavidin; wherein the binding radical is biotin; and wherein the fluorescent radical is ~~DTAF~~ 5-([4,6-dichlorotriazin-2-yl]amino)fluorescein.

Claim 7 (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the proteases are viral proteases.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7 wherein the proteases are selected from ~~HHV~~ human immunodeficiency virus proteases and herpes proteases.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein the herpes viruses proteases are selected from ~~HCMV~~ human cytomegalovirus proteases, ~~MCMV~~ mouse cytomegalovirus proteases, ~~HSV-2~~ herpes simplex virus subtype 1 proteases and ~~HSV-2~~ herpes simplex virus subtype 2 proteases.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 6 wherein the substrates are selected from biotin- ~~γ -Abu-Gly-Val-Val-Asn-Ala-Arg-Ser-Leu-Lys~~ (DTAF) = Biotin- γ - Abu-Gly-Val-Val-Asn-Ala-Ser-Ala-Arg-Leu-Lys-5-([4,6-dichlorotriazin-2-yl]amino)fluorescein -NH₂ [SEQ ID NO: 3] and biotin-- ~~γ -Abu-Ser-Gly-Asn-Tyr-Pro-Ile-Val-Gln-Lys~~ (DTAF) -5-([4,6-dichlorotriazin-2-yl]amino)fluorescein -NH₂ [SEQ ID NO:4].

Claim 11. A method for identifying compounds which inhibit a protease, said method comprising a) incubating a mixture of said protease, the compound, and substrate having both a fluorescent radical and a radical capable of bind to an anchor; b) binding the substrate to the anchor; c) measure the fluorescence polarization of the emitted light; and d) calculating the amount of protease inhibition.

Claim 12-15 (Canceled).

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